

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A laminate structure for making a medical device comprising:  
an core having an outer surface;  
a first radio-opaque layer disposed on at least a portion of the outer surface of the core, the first radio-opaque layer having an outer surface; and  
a second layer disposed on at least a portion of the outer surface of the first radio-opaque layer; wherein the second layer isolates the first radio-opaque layer from blood within a patient's vessel.
2. The laminate structure of Claim 1, wherein the second layer covers a portion of the first radio-opaque layer and a portion of the core.
3. The laminate structure of Claim 1, wherein the first radio-opaque layer surrounds the core.
4. The laminate structure of Claim 3, wherein the second layer surrounds the first radio-opaque layer.
5. The laminate structure of Claim 1, wherein the outer surface of the second layer is capable of receiving a drug compound.
6. The laminate structure of Claim 1, wherein the second layer is made from an oxide of a metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Cr, Ta, and Al.
7. The laminate structure of Claim 1, wherein the second layer is made from a nitride of a metal selected from the group consisting essentially of Ti, Cr, Ta, and Al.
8. The laminate structure of Claim 1, wherein the second layer is made from a carbide of a metal selected from the group consisting essentially of Ti, Cr, Ta, and V.
9. In a medical device implantable within a patient's vessel, the medical device including a core having an outer surface, the outer surface having a layered structure thereon, the layered structure comprising:  
a radio-opaque inner layer disposed onto the outer surface of the core, and

an outer bio-compatible layer surrounding the radio-opaque inner layer;  
wherein the outer layer isolates the radio-opaque inner layer from blood or tissue within the patient's vessel.

10. A medical device comprising:  
a core having an outer surface;  
a radio-opaque inner layer disposed onto at least a portion of the outer surface of the core, and  
a bio-compatible outer layer, the outer layer covering at least a portion of the radio-opaque inner layer to reduce contact between the radio-opaque material and blood within a patient's vessel.

11. The medical device of Claim 10, wherein the radio-opaque inner layer surrounds the core.

12. The medical device of Claim 11, wherein the outer layer surrounds the radio-opaque inner layer to inhibit the radio-opaque layer from coming into contact with blood and tissue from within a patient's vessel.

13. The medical device of Claim 10, wherein the medical device is a coronary stent.

14. The medical device of Claim 10, wherein the outer layer is made from an oxide of a metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Cr, Ta, and Al.

15. The medical device of Claim 10, wherein the outer layer is made from a nitride of a metal selected from the group consisting essentially of Ti, Cr, Ta, and Al.

16. The medical device of Claim 10, wherein the outer layer is made from a carbide of a metal selected from the group consisting essentially of Ti, Cr, Ta, and V.

17. A method of treating an occluded vessel with a stent, comprising the acts of:

routing a delivery catheter having the stent mounted or restrained thereon to a position proximal to the diseased section of the vessel wherein the stent is of the type that includes: a core having an outer surface, a radio-opaque inner layer disposed

onto at least a portion of the outer surface of the core, and a bio-compatible outer layer, the outer layer covering at least a portion of the radio-opaque inner layer to reduce contact between the radio-opaque material and blood or tissue within the diseased vessel;

deploying the stent from the delivery catheter;

expanding the stent into abutment against the interior lining of the diseased vessel so as to provide a support mechanism to prevent closure of the vessel.

18. A device used in-vivo comprising:

a core;

means for increasing the visibility of the core to *in-vivo* viewing methods; and

means for establishing a barrier on the outer surface of the device so that the visibility increasing means is isolated from a patient's blood.

19. The device of Claim 18, wherein the visibility increasing means comprises a radio-opaque layer disposed on at least a portion of the outer surface of the core.

20. The device of Claim 19, wherein the means for establishing a barrier on the outer surface of the device comprises an outer layer disposed on at least a portion of the outer surface of the radio-opaque layer to form a barrier layer between the radio-opaque layer and the patient's blood.

21. The device of Claim 20, wherein the outer layer is made from an oxide of a metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Cr, Ta, and Al.

22. The device of Claim 20, wherein the outer layer is made from a nitride of a metal selected from the group consisting essentially of Ti, Cr, Ta, and Al.

23. The device of Claim 20, wherein the outer layer is made from a carbide of a metal selected from the group consisting essentially of Ti, Cr, Ta, and V.